money at present for giving subsidies, and yet at the same time expect the people—who are equally suffering under the same financial stringency—to help an institution like this? If the Government expect public generosity, the Government should also realise that that generosity begins from themselves. I still hope, Sir, that when the Vigilance Association makes a request that the Government should assist it in bringing into existence a Rescue Home—however small it may be and however temporary it may be—the Government will not hesitate to come to its rescue and give a generous help in that direction.''

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I hope the House is now ready for a vote. The question is that the Bill be passed into law.''

The motion was carried and the Bill was passed into law.

The House then adjourned for lunch.

After Lunch (3 p.m.) ...

X.—THE MADRAS GAMING (AMENDMENT) BILL.

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to introduce the Madras Gaming (Amendment) Bill (Bill[a] No. 21 of 1931) and move that the Bill be taken into consideration at once.

"This is a Bill, Sir, in which it is proposed to introduce two small amendments, one to Section 5 and another to Section 6. In Section 5 as it stands at present, the Police officer who can issue a warrant is himself unable to execute it. We want to make it clear by giving him power also to execute the warrant issued by himself. In Section 6 we want to insert the words 'until the contrary is proved', after the words 'shall be evidence'. As has been stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the fact that this section, as it now stands, merely enables instruments of gaming to be used as evidence and creates no statutory presumption against the accused has been commented upon in a judgment of the High Court. In order to remedy these two defects I have introduced this simple Bill.''

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"I second it.''

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move—

'that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee.'

"I have no doubt that the hon. the Home Member will agree to this motion having regard to the fact that though the amendment is of only one clause, in the Madras Gaming Act of 1930, that amendment is a very important one seeking to take away from the accused persons at least one chance of proving their innocence. After all, the Madras Gaming Act was passed in 1930 and it has had very few chances of

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[a] Published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* on 15th September 1931.

30th October 1931] [Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti]

being executed. There was only one case which went up to the High Court and it seems that one Honourable Judge of the High Court commented upon the lack of statutory presumptive evidence against the accused by the mere reason that certain articles used for the purpose of gaming were found in a gaming house. I beg to submit, Sir, that the opinion of the Honourable the Judge of the High Court, however important it might be, should not be taken as a reason for trying to take away one of the opportunities for the accused persons to defend themselves against any false or misinformed charges against them. There must be much more evidence collected in order to justify the Government before they go to the Council seeking to alter the existing Act. I have no doubt that lawyer members of this Council will throw great light upon the necessity of retaining the Act as it is without introducing the very drastic amendment which the hon. the Home Member wants to introduce by means of this Bill. I therefore beg, Sir, that this House might agree to the motion I make, namely, that this Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of—

(1) Rao Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar.
(2) Mr. R. Madanagopal Nayudu.
(3) Mr. T. Sundara Rao Nayudu.
(4) Mr. H. M. Jagannatham.
(5) Mr. C. Basu Dev.
(6) Rao Sahib P. Subrahmanyam Chetti.
(7) The Advocate General.
(8) Mr. D. V. Narasimhaswami.
(9) Mr. W. M. Browning.
(10) S. M. K. Beyabani Sahib Bahadur.
(11) Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan.
(12) Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed.
(13) Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar.
(14) The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar.
(15) The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur.
(16) Myself."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—" I second it."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" I do not oppose it, Sir."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was referred to the Select Committee, composed as above.

XI.—THE MADRAS CITY POLICE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to introduce the Madras City Police (Amendment) Bill[a] (Bill No. 22 of 1931) and move that the Bill be taken into consideration at once.

[a] Published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* on 29th September 1931.